

Extract from draft Cabinet minutes of meeting held on 30th October 2007

6. Referrals from Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to the final review of the council's 2005-08 conditional offers of grant (COG) and Regeneration in Cheltenham (agenda item 8 and 8a)

The Chairman of Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny asked that the two items be taken together as they were related. He referred to the findings and recommendations of the review group outlined in Section 4 of the COG report and the reasoning behind its recommendation not to fund the former Cheltenham Regeneration Partnership and Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Leaseholders in future. He explained the view of the COG review group was that the funding in respect of the Federation be ring-fenced and used to fund an alternative provider. The COG review group was not in a position to make a recommendation on the long-term future of the Stronger Communities Partnership and on any on-going funding, however the Single Regeneration Company Feasibility working group was of the view that the funding currently targeted at the Cheltenham Regeneration Partnership be continued to the Stronger Communities Partnership for the reasons outlined in 6.1 of the Regeneration in Cheltenham report. The COG review group had also made some recommendations regarding the review process in future.

The Cabinet invited the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor the implementation Action Plan for collaborative working between the five regeneration companies to improve service delivery within their neighbourhoods and make better use of resources.

**The Cabinet agreed to note the recommendations of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny and to take them into account during the consideration of the officer response to the review which was agenda item 9 on the agenda and the next item.
(Executive Decisions 63 and 64 attached)**

7. The Future Procurement of Services from the Voluntary Sector by the Social and Community Group (agenda item 9)

The Assistant Director Community Services introduced this report which had been circulated with the agenda. He acknowledged that it was regrettable that in view of the short timescale to complete the officer report, the time available for external consultation had been considerably reduced.

Following debate, the Cabinet supported the recommendation that grant funding to the Stronger Communities Partnership be terminated at the end of the current agreement period, subject to further exploration by officers of the status of the current matching contribution from Gloucestershire PCT, and further recommendations on the need for support for all 6 sub-partnerships of the Cheltenham Strategic Partnership.

The Cabinet deferred decisions in respect of recommendation 1.2.6 and 1.2.7 so that it could be considered in parallel with agenda item 10 Future Procurement of Services from the Third (Voluntary) Sector in Cheltenham. These recommendations were subsequently approved.

(Executive Decision 65/2007 attached)

CABINET DECISION REPORT FORM

Referral from Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Final review of the council’s 2005-2008 conditional offers of grant (agenda item 8)

1. Decision made

The Cabinet noted the recommendations made by Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support the findings of the O & S review group as detailed in section 4 of the report

2. Identity of the Decision Maker

Cabinet

3. Date of Decision

30th October 2007

4. Reasons for Decision

As there was a parallel officer report being dealt with under agenda item 9 they would only note the recommendations at this stage and make the final decision when considering that item.

5. Consultation undertaken

Relevant Cabinet Members and Social and Community O & S Committee

6. Results of Consultation

Report of the Grant Review Group – final review of the council's 2005-08 conditional offers of grant

7. Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet at the meeting

8. Background documents

S&C O & S report 9th July 2007 – update three year review of 2005-08 conditional offers of grant
Cabinet report 27th March 2007 – Annual review of the council’s conditional offers of grant 2006-2007
Cabinet report 24 January 2006 – Annual Review of the council’s conditional offers of grant 2005-2006
Cabinet report 24 January 2005 – Annual Review of the council's conditional offers of grant

9. Interests declared

None

10. Dispensation

Was a dispensation given by the Standards Committee in respect of any declaration of interest listed at 9?

NOT APPLICABLE YES NO

Date of dispensation ...N/A.....

Decision 64/2007

CABINET DECISION REPORT FORM

Referral from Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
Regeneration in Cheltenham (agenda item 8a)

1. Decision made

The Cabinet received the findings of the single Regeneration company Feasibility Group set out in section 6 of the report.

2. Identity of the Decision Maker

Cabinet

3. Date of Decision

30th October 2007

4. Reasons for Decision

On 8 June 2006 a cross-party working group was set up to work with the Regeneration Partnership (Cheltenham) to explore the context for the proposed single regeneration company and how the proposal will produce a more sustainable, stable and co-ordinated approach to regeneration. The Cabinet have made the decisions outlined above in order to progress Regeneration in Cheltenham, based on the findings of the Single Regeneration Company Feasibility Working group.

5. Consultation undertaken

Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project
Whaddon Lynworth and Prior Neighbourhood Project
Cheltenham West End Partnership
Hesters Way Partnership
Oakley Regeneration Partnership

6. Results of Consultation

Report of the Single Regeneration Company Feasibility Working Group –
Regeneration in Cheltenham

7. Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet at the meeting

None

8. Background documents

S&C O&S Committee – 8th June 2006 – Current position of regeneration
Companies information paper

9. Interests declared

None

10. Dispensation

Was a dispensation given by the Standards Committee in respect of any declaration of interest listed at 9.?

YES

NO

NOT APPLICABLE

Date of dispensation ...N/A.....

CABINET DECISION REPORT FORM

The Future Procurement of Services from the Voluntary Sector by the Social and Community Group (agenda item 9)

1. Decision made

Cabinet:

1. In line with Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations agreed to invest through grant in the development of the Everyman Theatre for a further three year period but ensuring that clear measurable targets are incorporated within a future agreement, including evidence of out reach work relating specifically to audiences and activities in Cheltenham – a report from the commissioning officer to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet in January outlining the new draft agreement.
 2. Agreed to invest through grant in the development of neighbourhood regeneration but using a different formula, to distribute current spending on regeneration partnerships and projects equitably between the Hesters Way Partnership and the Oakley Regeneration Partnership for a three year period to facilitate stability and predictability during the development of the new community resource centres and the services they deliver subject to agreement at budget-setting.
 3. Agreed to continue the current level of investment through grant to Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action for a further three year period.
 4. In line with Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations:
 - a) Resolved that the Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Residents no longer be funded and that officers investigate, together with Cheltenham Borough Homes, the most efficient and effective way that current HRA funding in this area could be re-invested in developing tenant and leaseholder involvement.
 - b) Resolved that current CBC grant funding to the Stronger Communities Partnership (formerly Cheltenham Regeneration Partnership) terminates at the end of the current agreement period, subject to further exploration by officers of the status of the current matching contribution from Gloucestershire PCT, and further recommendations on the need for support for all 6 sub-partnerships of the Cheltenham Strategic Partnership.
5. In line with Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations agreed to continue to fund the services of a Home Improvement Agency, as previously secured under the Conditional Offer of Grant awarded to Care and Repair until at least March 2008,

but that the Council should there after consider entering into a formal contractual arrangement with a detailed specification for the services to be commissioned through the funding. County Supporting People Partnership has been working towards a county wide contract which would complement the approach taken by Cheltenham Borough Council.

6. Endorsed the move towards joint procurement of services by contract from third sector organisations and require relevant officers of the council to:

a) explore the benefits of county wide joint commissioning of services from the third sector with one or more local authority in Gloucestershire where economies of scale can be shown from both commissioner and service provider.

b) work with Cheltenham VCA, in line with the Compact, to bring forward services that could be opened up to bids from third sector providers where there is a business case.

7. Delegated authority to the AD Community Services to enter into appropriate agreements with any organisation approved by Cabinet to receive funding, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor.

2. Identity of the Decision Maker

Cabinet

3. Date of Decision

30th October 2007

4. Reasons for Decision

March 31st 2008 marks the end of the Social and Community Groups major Conditional Offers of Grant, the current preferred vehicle for funding the 'third sector'. It is necessary for the Cabinet to make a decision in respect of the commissioning and decommissioning of services for the period 2008 - 2011.

5. Consultation undertaken

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny committee

Through the review:

Cheltenham VCA, Everyman Theatre, Hesters Way Project, WLP Project, Regeneration Cheltenham, Care and repair, Cheltenham Federation of Tenants and Residents

On the content of the report:

Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action.

Hesters Way Partnership, Oakley Partnership, CHWEP Partnership, Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project, WLP Neighbourhood Project.
Cheltenham Borough Homes.

6. Results of Consultation

As detailed in the report

7. Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet at the meeting

None

8. Background documents

'Partnership in Public Services', Office of the Third Sector, 2006
'The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration'
HM Treasury, 2006
'Hearts and Minds, commissioning from the voluntary sector', Audit
Commission July 2007

9. Interests declared

None

10. Dispensation

Was a dispensation given by the Standards Committee in respect of any
declaration of interest listed at 9.?

YES

NO

NOT APPLICABLE

Date of dispensation ...N/A.....